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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/831,605	05/10/2001	Charles Osborn Reade	FHW-081US	5768
959	7590	05/24/2005	EXAMINER	
LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP. 28 STATE STREET BOSTON, MA 02109			HEINRICH, SAMUEL M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1725	

DATE MAILED: 05/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/831,605

Applicant(s)

READE, CHARLES OSBORN

Examiner

Samuel M. Heinrich

Art Unit

1725

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 16-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 16-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 May 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

The indicated allowability of claims 1-14 and 16-18 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s): USPN 2,068,421 to Long et al; WO9205946A; JP403054354A; USPN 5,331,943 to Ko; and USPN 4,437,968 to Elliott, Jr. Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by USPN 2,068,421 to Long et al. Long et al show (Figures 4-7) a flame arrestor comprising a two dimensional array of adjacent circular section rods, being generally co-aligned and arranged transverse to the flow direction, such that fluids flow between the rods.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 8, 9, and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 2,068,421 to Long et al. With respect to (WRT) claim 8, Long et al show (Figures 4-7) an offset array which require a circuitous flow path. WRT claim 9, the arrays shown in Figures 6 and 7 are arranged with an approximate 60 degree offset. WRT claim 16-18, the assembly items for attaching a rod or tube to a mounting or to an inflow or outflow feed device are known in the art, and the use of flow reducers or flanges would have been obvious at the time applicant's invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art because the tube and/or rod fittings are notoriously well known for mounting and for adapting for input/output sizes.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Long et al as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of WO9205946A. WO9205946A discloses (USE/ADVANTAGE) the use of either pipe or rod for a flame arrestor. The use of either element in the Long et al apparatus would have been obvious at the time applicant's invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art because both configurations provide adequate flame arrest function.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Long et al as applied to claim 6 above, and further in view of JP403054354A. The use of fins is well known as disclosed by JP403054354A and the use thereof in the Long et al device would have been obvious at the time applicant's invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art because the fins provide a greater degree of heat transfer to the element array.

Claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Long et al as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of USPN 5,331,943 to Ko. Ko discloses (Figures 14(A) and 14(B)) the use of a scraper. The use of a scraper in a rod or tube array would have been obvious at the time applicant's invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art because the scraper provides a clear flow passage and provides good heat transfer surface. The scraper described by Ko is a manual device.

Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Long et al in view of Ko as applied to claim 10 above, and further in view of USPN 4,437,968 to Elliott, Jr. Elliott, Jr. discloses (column 11, lines 49-60) the use of a timer controlled scraper. The use of a timer controlled scraper in a tube or rod apparatus such as disclosed by Long et al as modified by Ko would have been obvious at the time applicant's invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art because the timer provides automated cleaning and reduces manual monitoring.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The cited art pertains to rod and tube devices.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Samuel M. Heinrich whose telephone number is 571-272-1175. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas G. Dunn can be reached on 571-272-1171. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Samuel M. Heinrich May 18, 2005

Samuel M Heinrich
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1725

SMH